

## DECLARATION OF Justin M. Dutra

I am writing you as an employee of a diversified family farming operation. Stone Land Company was founded in 1948 by Jack G. Stone, employed just over four people and farmed approximately 640 acres.

Today Stone Land Company employs approximately 60 full time employees and over an additional 200 seasonally. This is over 260 families that are counting on my employer to remain viable. Indirectly, there are countless business's that depend on these employees' dollars as well as our own: Grocery stores, Chemical/Fertilizer distributors as well as equipment dealers are all dependant on the business that we create: our annual payroll and crop expenditures are staggering. My question to you is what happens when this goes away? The loss of jobs and business's would be devastating to our already crippled economy and the main problem is once this great agricultural infrastructure is gone, it cannot come back.

Currently we are investing heavily in water saving irrigation systems and the development of new wells to continue farming in this disastrous regulatory water drought we are encountering. This is not a sustainable solution but a temporary fix. Farming is not only a business but it is a way of life for us: we as well as our neighboring farms provide under the most heavily regulated environment in the world; the safest most abundant supply of food and fiber available anywhere! In order to maintain this safe food supply we must have a reliable water supply. We do not want to become a country that depends on foreign importation of food and this is exactly the road we are taking if we do not repair California's broken water system. I urge you to consider the human affect, consider the economy and consider the lives you are affecting with your decisions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Justin Dutra".

Justin Dutra  
Agronomist  
Stone Land Company